37: Dobell--305-306 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 234, 262, 482

"These people hav- [306] ing plenty of cattle, I procured, for my journey, a good stock of milk, butter, &c. which I carried after the Yakut manner, in two leathern bags, made of horse-hide, and called simmire. The Yakuts mix sour milk and cream together in those bags, which, after one has travelled a few hours on horseback, becomes butter and buttermilk; the butter collecting in small lumps, from the size of a pea to that of a marble. A Yakut drinks the butter and butter-milk together, or eats the butter in handfuls with his boiled meat, oftentimes in such quantities as, were I to relate it, would exceed belief! I found, however, by experience, when on the Towinsk road, that butter and sour butter-milk eaten together are much lighter on the stomach than butter eaten in the usual way. Indeed, the sour butter I could eat more of, without feeling cloyed, than of the ordinary sort."

37: Dobell--307 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 262, 577

"During the afternoon we had met several convoys of horses, carrying flour, liquor, &c. to Ochotsk, to the number of eighty or a hundred. Two of these convoys having stopped to pass the night close to our encampment, my Yakuts kept a strict watch until the following morning, fearful of having some of their horses stolen. On inquiry I found those people were in the habit of stealing horses for food, whenever a good opportunity offered, being fonder of horseflesh than any other; so that when two strange convoys encamp together, they are obliged to watch one another, being extremely artful and expert in thieving. Those who get possession of a horse contrive to decamp suddenly, and ride several versts off, when they kill the animal, bury his bones, and conceal the flesh in their bags, before the person robbed discovers the theft."

37: Dobell--307 [2] G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 144, 231

"They are men generally of small stature, light, and very active, when they choose to exert themselves, indefatigable on the road, and surpassing every other people in conducting and taking care of horses. In features they resemble strongly the people of the province of Nankin, in China."

37; Dobell--308 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 171, 291, 301

"The Tongusees and Yakuts dress much alike, particularly the women, wearing abundance of ornaments. Their hair, that hangs in two or three braids behind, is stuck over with small copper or silver plates, more or less rich, in proportion to the fortune of the wearer. Sometimes a silver or copper plate is placed on the forehead. They occasionally wear a close cap, likewise adorned with plates and beads, and often ornament their boots with beads of various colours, having much the appearance of the work on the Wampum belts of the North American savages."

37: Dobell--312 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 484, 782, 823

"We travelled to the source of the Ourak, crossed three very steep mountains, and descending, passed a large lake, the source of the river Udama, surrounded by mountains, and three or four versts in length. On the trees that skirted the road, at the tops of these mountains, I observed a considerable quantity of horse-hair, tied in little bunches to the branches, which my guide informed me were offerings to the gods of the mountains, made by the Yakuts who had crossed them without accident."

37: Dobell--332 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 261

"Although the Yakuts eat a great deal when they have a plentiful stock, and indeed often consume it in an improvident manner; yet, when food is scarce, they can live on as little as possible, being almost equal to the Tongusees in the capacity for supporting fatigue and hunger."

37: Dobell--342-343 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 273

"Milk prepared in various ways is their principal sus-[343]tenance; and their favorite beverage, as I have already mentioned, is khoomiss, an intoxicating, acidulated liquor, when old. The best is made of mare's milk, and of it they are extravagantly fond. I was curious to examine the large birch-bark tub, containing the mother on which this fermentation is produced, and being always esteemed in proportion to its age, preserved with the nicest care, and oftentimes handed down as a legacy from father to son! "

37: Dobell--343-344 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 234

"They seem to understand very little of the economy of a dairy, making no cheese, and but bad butter; the latter being sour cream either kept until it grows hard, and the whey then drained off, or melted over the fire, and poured out clear into birch vessels, called tougty, where it becomes hard, and will keep a considerable length of time in such a cold climate. Their white butter, made by the first-mentioned process, is quite sour as well as strong; while that which is boiled becomes yellow, and were it not for the oily and smoky flavour it acquires by their careless manner of making it, would be very excellent. I tasted afterwards butter of this description at Yakutsk, and found it perfectly good, though my host informed me it had been made the previous season. Some that I made [344] my servant melt in this way, carefully covered, proved very palatable. They have a custom also of drying clotted or scalded cream in cakes--one of the delicacies presented to me that really deserves the name: some of it, however, was smoky, I suppose for want of attention."

37: Dobell--344 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 231

"As the country inhabited by these people has a vast number of lakes, they never want for fish and water-fowl, except in the depth of winter. I saw neither pigs, sheep, now poultry amongst them; nor, in fact, any other domestic animals except those mentioned before; though I have heard that some of them have goats."

37: Dobell--344 [2] G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 194

"The Yakut names of the principal ones [RCH: i.e., lakes] are Kharradah, Kharbatchi, Khallingattah, Maionnah and Moondrah. A vast number of the Yakut names end in loch and lach, and they pronounce them with a rough guttural sound, as the same terminations in Irish and Scotch are commonly spoken by the vulgar of those countries. Though I could not discover any actual rememblance [sic] in other words, I found the strongest, in sound, to the common Irish language, as spoken in the southern parts of Ireland."

37: Dobell--345 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 241, 412, 493

"During our morning's ride I stopped to see the Yakuts mow grass, which they performed as a man might cut wood in other countries, swinging a short dull scythe above their heads, and literally hewing it down by main strength. Mowing is, properly, a work done by sleight, as well as by strength, with a long sharp scythe, that enables an expert hand to lay down a couple of acres of grass in a day: and this should be explained to them. I observed their hay was drawn home by oxen, yoked to sledges, nearly after the European manner. Their horned cattle, in general, though not remarkably tall, are large, strong, and well proportioned; but the cows do not give a great deal of milk. The cattle here were larger and better than immediately in the neighbourhood of Yakutsk."

37: Dobell--346-347 G-2 (1812-13) 1830 Yakut
116, 501

"At night we encamped near the lake Khoodlugge, where we also procured fish in plenty. I observed one of the Yakuts take up a canoe, with great seeming ease, carry it a considerable distance on his shoulders, and then place it in the water. I went to examine of what materials it was composed, that could be light enough to enable him to transport it so easily. It was about twelve feet long, proportionally wide, lessening gradually, from the centre, and sharp at each end, flat bottomed, and made of birch-bark, ingeniously sewed together. It was ribbed [347] with pieces of thin birch-wood, and would carry two or three men with great safety. This sort of canoe is stronger than one would imagine from the materials of which it is composed, swims in very shallow water, and may be impelled by a simple paddle against the swiftest currents."